

**Thomas Johnson, David Stuart, and Daniel Carroll,
Commissioners to Thomas Jefferson, January 5, 1793,
from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited
by Saul K. Padover.**

Commissioners to Jefferson COMMISSIONERS TO JEFFERSON

Washington 5th. Jany. 1793

Sir/

We have your two favours of the 13th. and that of the 17th. of last mo. before us. It appears to us more, and more desirable to expedite the Stone-cutting by Machinery, not more on account of the expences, which the State of our Funds require to be attended to, then to ensure the Quantity wanted in Time, for we have as yet only about # done of what will be wanted, on the large scale of the Presidents House, to the Water Table of it. Mr. Harbaugh who is very ingenious, and cheerfully renders us every assistance in his power, after seeing the sketch enclosed by you a Draft by Mr. Hallet, and having as it seems to us a perfect Idea of Mr. Millikins plan has made and shewn us a Model, of a stone saw mill to be worked with Horses, or Oxen, on the principle of giving motion to the Saws by a Spiral Line, the simplicity and cheapness of it and our hope of its effecual [sic] operation have induced us to desire him to set up one instantly which he has undertaken.

We do not however rely on the success of this effect. we have agreed on the most generous Terms, for the Introduction of Foreigners and enclose you a Copy of them, as well as our Letter open to Mr. Traquair, if the whole number which we do not expect should be engaged we should be rather overburthened for the too probable State of our Finances, otherwise we could wish to have the cutt-stone so forward that a sufficient number might

Library of Congress

be early spared to assist private Buildings, which would tend to Beautyfy the City. Messrs. Mason and Fenwick will have the Charge of this Business in France, assisted by a Letter from Mr. Hallet. — Mr. Delier's House — Brewine for Germany and Mr. Hoben has fallen on measures for some from Dublin, as Mr. Williamson has for some from Scotland, and we hope Mr. Traquair may succeed at least in part. As it is not expected to get Higher next year than the water Table. J. E. 13 feet elevation there are Carpenters enough who may be had on the spot. And we shall want but a few additional masons next Season, for some in each line have already purchased and agreed to sink

the price, by their work, so that we think it can be no object to introduce others from connecticut. Yet we are almost certain that there will be Employment for a great many Mechanicks in the City, and George: Town next Season, on private buildings on Connecticut wages which are rather lower than here. the provisioning of workmen draws after it so many Expences, and so much waste that we have hitherto left them to provide for themselves, we are under a necessity, of doing otherwise as to the labourers, a part of whom we can easily make up of Negroes and find it proper to do so. Those we have employed this Sumer have proved a very useful check & kept our Affairs Cool. We have agreed with Mr. Blodget for his Services, and hope that his Assistance will be very usefull, he has great Confidence in a Lottery, we find ourselves at liberty and agree to it our Communications with him go into some particulars which we suppose need not be repeated here. Mr. Walker we understand will go soon for Scotland, any thing he could do there, for us we imagine may be done at least as well by Mr. Traquair through his Correspondent and

we must be excused from giving Signs of Approbation and confidence that we do not feel. Mr. Hallet looses nothing of our Estimate of him, he has not been able to finish his Plan so soon as he hoped, but says it shall be ready in about three weeks. The Survey seems to us very tedious and we know it is very Expensive. we have had some explanations with Majr. Ellicott, but do not yet know how they may End, indeed in the other parts of our Business we have necessarily, not precisely entered into Engagements to a great Amount

Library of Congress

with Officers, which will be thought extravagant unless our funds hold out to fill up with actual Labour. Much depends on the next Sale, on weighing every thing within, one Sale on the 17th September gives the best Chance. We are Sir &c

Th: Johnson

Dd. Stuart

Danl. Carroll

[Pp. 139–41, COMMISSIONERS' LETTERBOOK, Vol. I, 1791–1793, in the National Archives.]